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Monday
January 26, 1958
2:30 p.m.

cc: U

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH
THE PRESIDENT



1. The President spoke of the prospective Mexico trip. He wanted to be sure of the dates. I confirmed them as being the 18th and 20th of February. The President asked what the plans were. I said I did not know but from the White House on the telephone with Mr. Rubottom found that the thought was that the President should arrive in the early afternoon of the 18th and spend that night and all day the 20th, returning on the morning of the 21st. The President wondered what he and the President of Mexico would find to talk about all that time. I said that if it was agreeable to the President I did not myself plan to go as I had only recently been to Mexico City for the Presidential Inauguration. He said this was all right so long as it was made quite clear in the original announcement that this was entirely in the nature of an "informal call" and that business was not to be transacted.

I said I was not aware of any particular problems between our countries. Most of the matters dealt with at the White Sulphur Conference had been disposed of. There was, of course, the lead-zinc matter, but Mexico seemed rather reasonable on this subject.

I said I thought a formal invitation would probably be presented when the new ambassador presented his credentials.

2. We then turned to the matter of the British thinking on the Berlin situation. The President went over with me the draft of my "thinking-out-loud" piece. He had made a number of verbal suggestions, all of which I told him I thought improved the paper.

The President asked whether it would be useful for him to get into the act at this point. I said I was inclined to think it might be better to await the more precise formulation of our views in the light of the recommendations of the JCS. I said our own position was not yet clarified in practical detail.

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3

MA 81-15349

BY BC/MPNARS, Date 10/21/81

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I referred to the desirability of my having a talk with Macmillan, Adenauer and possibly De Gaulle or Couve de Murville in the near future. I thought it particularly desirable that this immediately follow the formulation of our position and precede Macmillan's proposed trip to Moscow.

The President heartily concurred. He suggested that I should take the Columbine and go over for the week end. I told him I had to give a speech in New York on Saturday night. He then suggested leaving after my speech for London.

I thanked him for the offer of the Columbine and said we would promptly explore the useful dates which would require sounding out of our Embassies.

3. I then showed the President the draft statement I plan to make to the Foreign Affairs Committee on the 28th. The President asked if this were any different from what I had said to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I said that it was different in that it was more related to the Mikoyan visit and to Soviet reactions based thereon; also to the reactions of our Western allies based on newspaper accounts of Mikoyan's trip. The President said he would look over the statement.

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